

factors on the recruitment, spawning potential, mortality, and abundance of Atlantic striped bass populations, including the Delaware River population.

“(4) Investigations of—

“(A) the interactions between Atlantic striped bass and other fish, including bluefish, menhaden, mackerel, and other forage fish or possible competitors, stock assessments of these species, to the extent appropriate; and

“(B) the effects of interspecies predation and competition on the recruitment, spawning potential mortality, and abundance of Atlantic striped bass.

“(b) **SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY.**—The Secretaries, in consultation with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, shall conduct a study of the socio-economic benefits of the Atlantic striped bass resource. The Secretaries shall issue a report to the Congress concerning the findings of this study no later than September 30, 1998.

“(b) **REPORTS.**—The Secretaries shall make biennial reports to the Congress and to the Commission concerning the progress and findings of studies conducted under subsection (a) and shall make those reports public. Such reports shall, to the extent appropriate, contain recommendations of actions which could be taken to encourage the sustainable management of Atlantic striped bass.

**“SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**

“(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—For each of fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act—

“(1) \$800,000 to the Secretary of Commerce; and

“(2) \$250,000 to the Secretary of the Interior.

“(b) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretaries may enter into cooperative agreements with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission or with States, for the purpose of using amounts appropriated pursuant to this section to provide financial assistance for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

**“SEC. 8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PREPARATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS AND AMENDMENTS.**

“(a) **STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.**—In order to ensure the opportunity for public participation in the preparation of management plans and amendments to management plans for Atlantic striped bass, the Commission shall prepare such plans and amendments in accordance with the standards and procedures established under section 805(a)(2) of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act.

“(b) **APPLICATION.**—Subsection (a) shall apply to management plans and amendments adopted by the Commission after the 6-month period beginning on the date of enactment of the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act Amendments of 1997.

**“SEC. 9. PROTECTION OF STRIPED BASS IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.**

“(a) **REGULATION OF FISHING IN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.**—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations governing fishing for Atlantic striped bass in the exclusive economic zone that the Secretary determines are—

“(1) consistent with the national standards set forth in section 301 of the Magnuson Act (16 U.S.C. 1851);

“(2) compatible with the Plan and each Federal moratorium in effect on fishing for Atlantic striped bass within the coastal waters of a coastal State; and

“(3) sufficient to assure the long-term conservation of Atlantic striped bass populations.”

“(a) **REGULATION OF FISHING IN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.**—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations governing fishing for Atlantic striped bass in the exclusive economic zone that the Secretary determines—

“(1) are consistent with the national standards set forth in section 301 of the Magnuson Act (16 U.S.C. 1851);

“(2) are compatible with the Plan and each Federal moratorium in effect on fishing for Atlantic striped bass within the coastal waters of a coastal State; and

“(3) ensure the effectiveness of State regulations on fishing for Atlantic striped bass within the coastal waters of a coastal State; and

“(4) are sufficient to assure the long-term conservation of Atlantic striped bass populations.

“(b) **CONSULTATION; PERIODIC REVIEW OF REGULATIONS.**—In preparing regulations under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils, and each affected Federal, State, and local government entity. The Secretary shall periodically review regulations promulgated under subsection (a), and if necessary to ensure their continued consistency with the requirements of subsection (a), shall amend those regulations.

“(c) **APPLICABILITY OF MAGNUSON ACT PROVISIONS.**—The provisions of sections 307, 308, 309, 310, and 311 of the Magnuson Act (16 U.S.C. 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, and 1861) regarding prohibited acts, civil penalties, criminal offenses, civil forfeitures, and enforcement shall apply with respect to regulations and any plan issued under subsection (a) of this section as if such regulations or plan were issued under the Magnuson Act.”

**SEC. 3. REPEALS.**

(a) **ANADROMOUS FISH CONSERVATION ACT.**—Section 7 of the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 757g) is repealed.

(b) **ALBEMARLE SOUND-ROANOKE RIVER BASIN.**—Section 5 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize appropriations to carry out the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act for fiscal years 1989 through 1991, and for other purposes”, approved November 3, 1988 (16 U.S.C. 1851 note; 102 Stat. 2984), relating to studies of the Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River Basin striped bass stock, is repealed.

(c) **REGULATION OF FISHING IN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.**—Section 6 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize appropriations to carry out the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act for fiscal years 1989 through 1991, and for other purposes”, approved November 3, 1988 (102 Stat. 2986; 16 U.S.C. 1851 note) is repealed.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendments be agreed to; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1658), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

**EXTENDING VISA WAIVER PILOT PROGRAM**

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1517, introduced earlier today by Senators ABRAHAM and KENNEDY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1517) to extend the Visa Waiver Pilot Program.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1517) was deemed read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1517

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

Section 217(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended by striking “September 30, 1997.” and inserting “April 30, 1998.”

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, with regard to the Executive Calendar, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: No. 275, 392, 410, 412, and 427, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating to the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Donna Jean Hrinak, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Bolivia.

Carolyn Curiel, of Indiana, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Belize.

Stanley Louis McLelland, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Jamaica.

Timothy Michael Carney, of Washington, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Haiti.

**INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION**

Frank D. Yturria, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring June 26, 2002.

**NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK**

**IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE**

Foreign Service nominations beginning Jeffrey Davidow, and ending Joseph Thomas